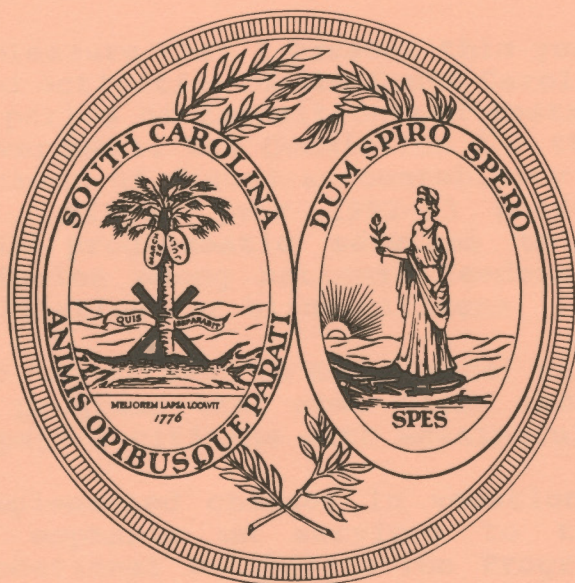


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SOUTH CAROLINA COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND



ANNUAL REPORT 1992-1993

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South Carolina Commission for the Blind

DONALD GIST, Commissioner

1430 CONFEDERATE AVENUE • COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29201 • PHONE 734-7520 • FAX 734-7885

June 30, 1993

The Honorable Carroll A. Campbell, Jr.
Governor, State of South Carolina
Columbia, South Carolina

Dear Governor Campbell:

It is with great pleasure that I present this year's annual report on the progress and activities of the South Carolina Commission for the Blind. In a period of transition and restructuring of South Carolina State Government, the Commission for the Blind continues to meet its commitment of fiscal accountability and commitment to client services. Fiscal year 1992-93 produced unparalleled accomplishments in programmatic services to clients, thereby placing the Commission among national leaders in the field of vocational rehabilitation for blind citizens.

The Agency's motto "Commitment to Excellence" was realized through the expansion of programs that move blind individuals from tax consumers to tax paying citizens with meaningful jobs.

The Commission implemented changes in vocational rehabilitation regulations with emphasis on services to the most severely disabled. Our Vocational Rehabilitation Program served a total 1,398 individuals in FY 1992-93. The expansion of our transportation program was an example of aggressive efforts to increase job placement of blind persons under these new priorities. Now serving all 46 counties, the Transportation Division transports blind clients to job interviews, and once employment is secured provides transportation to the job site for 90 days. In addition, the division transports clients to medical appointments and Agency training opportunities. During FY 1992-93 the South Carolina Commission for the Blind transported 768 clients through this network. Trips for employment totaled 5,317 and for employment-related training totaled 3,270.

This year 711 persons accessed our OPERATION SIGHTSAVER Program. The initiative focuses on preventing needless blindness due to diabetes. Vision screenings were provided at no charge to diagnosed diabetics. More than 200 ophthalmologists and optometrists participate in this campaign.

Our Prevention of Blindness Division had 6,500 client contacts in FY 1992-93, and 1,079 of those screened received medical treatment through our Agency. This resulted in a total dollar expenditure of 18 percent of budget allocations to prevent blindness versus 82 percent to rehabilitate clients.

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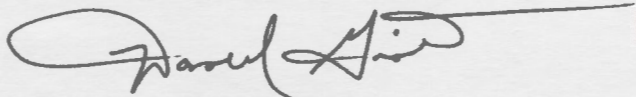
The Honorable Carroll A. Campbell, Jr.

June 30, 1993

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We are proud of our innovative accomplishments and the continued support we have received from you and the General Assembly.

Respectfully Submitted,



Donald Gist
Commissioner

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S.C. COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND

Donald Gist
Commissioner

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Legislative Compliance

The South Carolina Commission for the Blind is in compliance with the provisions of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title VI and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended, and all requirements imposed pursuant thereto to the end that no person shall, on the grounds of sex, race, age, color, national origin or disability, be excluded from participation in, be denied benefits of, or otherwise subject to discrimination in the provision of any care or service. Any client participant, potential client or interested person who is of an opinion that benefits are provided on a discriminatory basis has the right to file a complaint with the State Agency or Federal Agency or both.

Legal Blindness Qualifications

1. "Blindness" is defined as the level of central visual acuity, 20/200 or less in the better eye with the best corrective lens, or a disqualifying field defect in which the peripheral field has contracted to such an extent that the widest diameter of visual field subtends an angular distance no greater than 20 degrees and which is sufficient to incapacitate him or her for self-support, or an 80 percent loss of visual efficiency resulting from visual impairment in more than one function of the eye, including visual acuity for distance and near visual fields, ocular mobility, and other ocular functions and disturbances.

2. "Severe visual disability" is defined as any progressive pathological condition of the eye or eyes, supported by an acceptable eye examination, which in the opinion of the examiner may or will result in legal blindness within 24 months.

ADMINISTRATION

Fiscal year 1992-93 represented a new era for vocational rehabilitation. The 1992 Amendments to the Vocational Rehabilitation Act were passed to further empower persons with disabilities. Now there is an assumption of eligibility, and a determination of ineligibility can be made only following extensive evaluation. Persons with disabilities have more input and choices regarding the types and scope of services they receive. Emphasis now is placed on serving the most severely disabled.

To prepare for implementation of these amendments, the South Carolina Commission for the Blind provided training to 95 percent of Agency staff.

The Commission continued monitoring the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and served as a resource for individuals, employers and organizations. In addition, we honored requests to braille menus, invitations, brochures, manuals, etc.

In 1992-93 the Commissioner reinforced a concept of participatory management by encouraging input from Executive Managers and other staff in budget development. Our centralized Purchasing Unit improved the efficiency of our procurement process and resulted in better tracking of expenditures.

Numerous training opportunities were available to staff this fiscal year. These included training on vocational rehabilitation programs, the Americans with Disabilities Act, low vision devices, office automation and leadership development.

Our Vocational Rehabilitation Division is proud to have successfully rehabilitated 228 clients this fiscal year. Seventy-five percent of these individuals have earnings above the minimum wage.

The Technical Services Division (TSD) remains an important complement to our vocational rehabilitation effort. With the employment of blind citizens as our primary mission, the division trains clients in the operation of high-tech assistive devices used in the workplace. This is a key to preparation for the year 2000. During FY 1992-93, 15 clients participated in the Assistive Technology Training Program, and the division installed equipment for clients at 32 job sites.

Radio Broadcast Training got under way in October 1992 and has graduated five clients to date. Program participants are trained for employment in broadcasting and related fields.

Finance Division

The Finance Division encompasses four distinct units: Budgeting, Purchasing, Accounting and Property Management. This division ensures fiscal accountability to state and federal authorities as well as to the general public. It also provides all necessary administrative support to the direct services programs.

The Agency's \$8 million dollar budget comprises state appropriations, federal, and earmarked funds. The U. S. Department of Education - Vocational Rehabilitation Basic Support awards federal funds through entitlement, which accounts for more than half (\$4.5 million) of the budget.

The Social Security Administration, in particular the Social Security Reimbursement and Disability Determination programs, is another primary provider of federal funds. Sales from the concession benefits operating stands and donations comprise the majority of the earmarked funds.

The Commissioner employs the concept of participatory management in regard to the budgetary process. Executive managers and other staff play a vital role in determining and executing the budget plan for the Agency. Agency staff use LOTUS 1-2-3, a financial software spreadsheet to develop its budget plan.

The centralized Purchasing Unit processed approximately 5,000 purchase authorizations, while the field staff generated another 9,000 or more for direct client services such as medical and educational services. The Accounting Unit, using BARS (Basic Accounting and Reporting System) software, processed more than 14,000 disbursement vouchers for payments to private vendors, state entities and employees. Accounting also encumbered the purchase authorization amounts, thereby providing a more accurate picture of the Agency's financial position on any given report. Accounting processed more than 14,000 encumbrances.

Plans are under way to streamline the flow of paper and implement a completely automated on-line requisition system.

Division of Human Resources

The Division of Human Resources plans, administers and formulates policy direction for human resource management and development programs and provides technical advice and support to staff in implementing these programs.

During FY 1992-93, the Division of Human Resources coordinated and administered the following: recruitment, hiring and selection of new staff; classification, compensation and payroll; Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) and Affirmative Action reporting and statistics; Employee Performance Management System (EPMS); Grievance and Appeal Program; Progressive Discipline; maintenance of employee personnel records; Employee Identification Card Program; State Group Health, Life and Dental Insurance Programs; Attendance and Leave Program; Workers' Compensation; Employee State Service Award Program; Employee Wellness Program; Fair Labor Standards Act compliance; other various employee relations and benefits programs and staff development programs under the In-service Training Grant of the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA), US Department of Education.

In-service programs provided the following training opportunities: Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Conference, The Southeastern Orientation and Mobility Association (SOMA) Conference, Rehabilitation Services Administration Satellite Training Broadcast, Leadership Development Training, staff orientation and a variety of individual training programs specific to rehabilitation professionals.

Employment and Training Division

The Employment and Training Division's primary mission is to provide appropriate job training and development for South Carolina's employable blind population. To more effectively combat the high rates of unemployment among the employable blind, the Commission expanded this division to include three employment consultants and a director. In FY 1992-93 employment consultants continued to utilize the South Carolina Occupational Information System (SCOIS) to generate computerized information from the South Carolina Employment Security Commission. SCOIS provides vocational rehabilitation counselors with statewide job vacancies and training programs.

Employment consultants were directly responsible for implementing a total 32 on-the-job training (OJT) programs, during this fiscal year. Of the 32 blind and severely visually impaired clients, 25 were successfully placed on jobs at designated OJT sites or found employment elsewhere. The employment consultants have assumed the responsibility of developing quality employment opportunities for clients who have completed the Customer Service Representative Program (CSR) at Spartanburg Technical College. This training program is a cooperative effort among the South Carolina Commission for the Blind, Spartanburg Technical College and the South Carolina School for the Deaf and Blind.

The Employment and Training Division has completed a statewide Job Network Bank so that qualified applicants can be matched with available positions identified by the employment consultants. The consultants maintain and update Job Bank information and notify vocational rehabilitation counselors of current employment opportunities specifically developed for blind and visually impaired individuals.

In addition to job development and training, the Employment and Training Division conducts workshops for employers, personnel associations and civic groups on issues pertaining to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Staff also conducted sensitivity and awareness workshops for various companies and community groups.

Technical Services Division

The Technical Services Division (TSD), is a technological resource within the South Carolina Commission for the Blind. The division determines if equipment and/or workplace modifications are needed for a blind or visually impaired individual to perform a specific job-related function. TSD provides training for clients who utilize state of the art assistive devices in the employment arena. These devices include, but are not limited to, computers with speech capabilities that enable blind individuals to hear what sighted persons see on the computer screen, machines that transcribe braille into print and vice versa, an electronic scanner that voice reads printed material and closed circuit televisions which electronically magnify information.

The Technical Services Division staff performed 40 job site evaluations for computer hardware and software, installed equipment for clients at 32 sites, de-installed equipment at two sites, performed 73 on-site troubleshooting visits and handled an average of four calls per week for a total of 208 calls concerning assistance from clients. In addition, the division evaluates new state of the art devices by utilizing the equipment on a trial basis.

TSD staff responded to 192 requests for braille by either transcribing printed information or assisting with the production of braille materials. These requests, totaling 1,464 pages, originated from in-house services, other agencies and the public.

Fifteen clients, including three involved in special projects, participated in the Assistive Technology Training Program (ATTP) during FY 1992-93. Manuals and exercises were provided in large print, braille or on audio tape. There were 842 hours of contact client training and an additional 144 contact hours of ATTP training for nine summer students, including one student who had multiple disabilities.

In addition TSD completed curriculum manuals and exercises for ZoomText (large print software), Screen Reader, DOS (disk operating system), WordPerfect Level I, LOTUS 123 and WordPerfect II. The division completed the transcription of all laboratory exercises and manuals onto audio tape.

Thirty Agency staff members received Office Automation Training for a total of 300 contact hours.

TSD staff prepared and presented a one-day seminar on Assistive Technology for the Commission's employment consultants; participated in

four in-house conferences and six for the general public; presented 16 in-house assistive device and software demonstrations at the Commission for 111 people; and responded to 77 calls for assistive technology information.

TSD also initiated the task of completing, updating and revamping the Blind Register. This was done by developing the social security number as the principal means of identification and contacting each person listed on the last available register (1989).

TSD staff conducted in-service training sessions at 66 nursing home facilities; assisted in bringing together community resources at 22 nursing homes; and initiated a video lending program for visually impaired residents. The program provides videotapes of old sitcoms for the enjoyment of nursing home residents. Local businesses contribute to this lending library.

DIVISION OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The Division of Public Affairs is comprised of the Office of Public Information, the Educational Radio for the Blind Network, Volunteer Services, Staff Development and Training (as it pertains to blindness) and the Media Center. These departments function collectively to promote the immediate dissemination of all South Carolina Commission for the Blind program and service information to our clients as well as to the general public through articles, broadcasts, brochures, news releases, public service announcements, the scheduling of television/radio appearances, etc.

Office of Public Information

The Office of Public Information promotes Agency programs and services through the development of news releases/articles, videotapes, public service announcements, photographs, newsletters, brochures, the scheduling of television and radio interviews, etc.

The office responds to inquiries from the general public and the media and oversees the release of Agency information as set forth under the State Freedom of Information Act while monitoring compliance with federal confidentiality laws.

In addition, the office works closely with the Commissioner and Agency staff to keep abreast of new or expanded initiatives within the Agency and determine the most effective method of informing clients, potential clients and the public at-large.

Educational Radio for the Blind

The South Carolina Educational Radio for the Blind Network (SCERB) provides more than 3,200 blind South Carolinians access to daily newspapers, weekly and monthly magazines and other printed material through radio receivers on loan to clients. The special radios are tuned to a subchannel of the South Carolina Educational Radio station nearest the listener. The subchannel carries 126 hours of programming produced each week by radio staff and volunteer readers.

Radio staff, along with the Children's Services Program, provided audio description of the Ringling Brothers/Barnum & Bailey Circus. In March 1993, South Carolina Educational Radio for the Blind hosted the annual Southeastern Conference of the National Association of Radio Reading Services. SCERB also was chosen as the site of the future National Program Distribution System planned by the National Association of Radio Reading Services.

The Radio Production Training Program began July 1992 with classes for teens in our High School Summer Program and continued through the year with individualized training for adult clients. During level one, clients learn to operate a multi-source radio control board, professional reel-to-reel, cart machine, compact disc and cassette equipment and to produce radio programs utilizing the equipment. Level two, emphasizes interview techniques so that by the end of the course clients are proficient in skills necessary for employment in broadcasting or related fields.

Volunteer Services

The Volunteer Services Program assigns volunteers to a variety of settings within the Agency; however, the majority assist Educational Radio staff in reading print material for broadcast over the network. Volunteers also help with braille production, parent conferences and other special projects. In FY 1992-93 the number of radio volunteers increased by nine percent over the previous year. They gave 7,721 hours to the South Carolina Commission for the Blind equal to a value of \$51,241.

Staff Development and Training

The South Carolina Commission for the Blind Staff Development and Training component trains Agency employees in matters pertaining to blindness (sighted guide training; assistance to a blind person, yet enabling him or her to retain independence; social/psychological aspects of blindness; diseases of the eye; etc.). As a community resource, Staff

Development and Training conducts workshops for other agencies, organizations, hospitals and schools. In FY 1992-93, this component provided new employee orientation for Agency staff and conducted nine specialized in-service training opportunities for organizations outside the Agency.

Media Center

The Media Center is a production center for braille, tape or large print material for use by legally blind residents of South Carolina and is an on-site library for client use. The Center produces materials for SCCB clients, staff members and for community use (i.e., menus, information for service clubs, etc.).

The Media Center assists in the location, distribution and storage of textbooks and tangible aids for the South Carolina Department of Education, Programs for the Handicapped. The librarian also serves as Agency liaison with the South Carolina State Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped and coordinates the in-state volunteer tape program.

Requests for materials during fiscal year 1992-93 were as follows:

		% increase over previous fiscal year
Braille	563	23%
Tape	441	33%
Large Print	316	49%

Media Center volunteers filled 95 percent of the requests for large print, 90 percent of the tape requests and 35 percent of the braille requests.

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION DIVISION

The Vocational Rehabilitation Division of the South Carolina Commission for the Blind provides assistance to blind and severely visually impaired clients in securing productive employment and achieving economic independence.

A variety of vocational rehabilitation services to enable blind and severely visually impaired South Carolinians to obtain or maintain employment. Vocational rehabilitation services available to eligible clients include: job development and job placement, medical treatment, psychological and vocational counseling, independent living skills training, vocational training, occupational tools and equipment and rehabilitation technology services.

These services are available so that each client may reach his or her vocational potential.

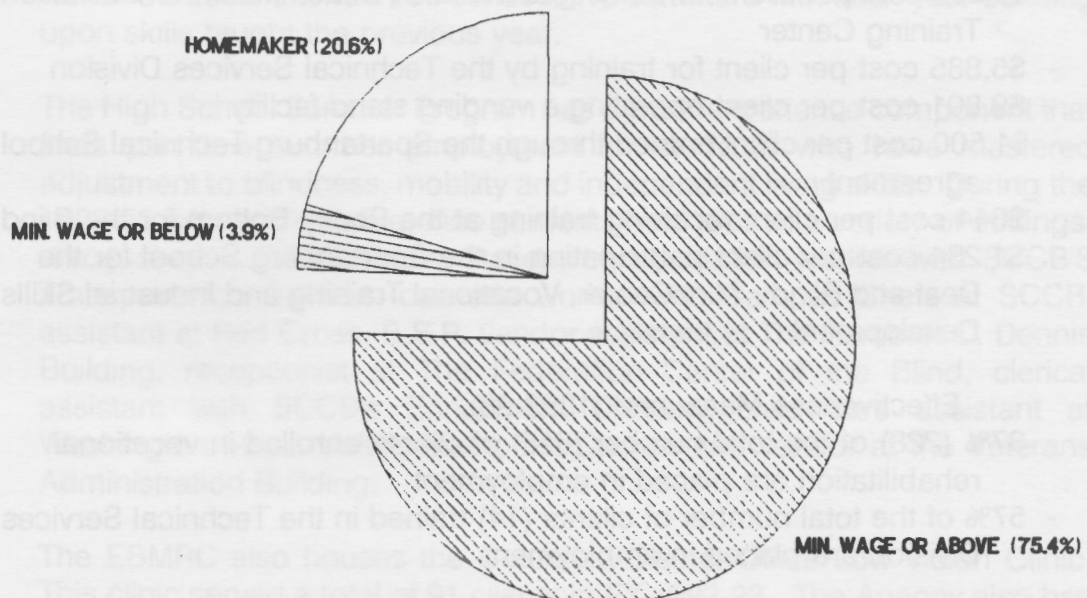
Vocational rehabilitation counselors work with each client to develop an Individualized Written Rehabilitation Program (IWRP), which lists the services to be provided so that a client may achieve his/her vocational objective.

Examples of jobs blind South Carolinians obtained as a result of vocational rehabilitation services this fiscal year are: physical therapist aide, attorney, clock assembler, salesperson, social worker, carpenter, radio announcer, welding machine helper and assistant plant manager.

During federal fiscal year 1992-93, the Commission's Vocational Rehabilitation Division closed 228 cases as successfully rehabilitated. Of this number, 172 or 75 percent were closed with earnings at or above minimum wage: earning at least \$4.25 per hour and working a minimum of 20 hours. Nine individuals or four percent earned below minimum wage, and 47 individuals or 21 percent were closed as homemakers or unpaid family workers.

SUCCESSFULLY REHABILITATED

TOTAL - 228 CASES



In Fiscal Year 1992 the Federal Vocational Rehabilitation Act was amended to emphasize and mandate service to the most severely disabled individuals. In keeping with the intent of the law, the Agency's Vocational Rehabilitation Division is exploring new initiatives to enhance services to this population.

During the fall of 1992, three in-service training programs were conducted for vocational rehabilitation personnel: one on the examination and prescription of low vision devices, the other two on the Americans with Disabilities Act. In the spring of 1993, 95 percent of Agency staff received training on the 1992 Amendments to the Vocational Rehabilitation Act.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES:

Workload Indicators: (1992-93)

- 1,398 Clients served in Rehabilitation Services
- 137 Clients served in the Ellen Beach Mack Center
- 76 Clients served at the SC School f/t Deaf & Blind
- 15 Clients served at Spartanburg Technical College
- 279 Clients served in the Low Vision Clinic
- 59 Clients served at the Rocky Bottom Camp f/t Blind
- 27 Clients served in the Technical Services Division
- 20 Clients served in the Radio Training Program
- 115 Clients served in the Business Enterprise Program

Efficiency Measures: (1992-93)

- \$3,454 cost per client for general rehabilitation services
- \$5,255 cost per client for training at the Ellen Beach Mack Rehabilitation Training Center
- \$5,885 cost per client for training by the Technical Services Division
- \$9,801 cost per client operating a vending stand facility
- \$1,500 cost per client trained through the Spartanburg Technical School agreement
- \$644 cost per client receiving training at the Rocky Bottom for the Blind
- \$1,234 cost per client participating in the Spartanburg School for the Deaf and Blind - Mini Center, Vocational Training and Industrial Skills Development

Effectiveness Measures: (1992-93)

- 37% (228) of the total number (618) of clients enrolled in vocational rehabilitation are placed in employment
- 57% of the total number of clients (14) trained in the Technical Services Division are placed in employment

- 86% of the total number of individuals (159) requesting enrollment at the Ellen Beach Mack Training Center receive services
- 29% of the total number of adult students (44) enrolled for training at the SC School for the Deaf and Blind completed training
- 60% of the total number of students (15) trained at Spartanburg Technical College received job placements
- 100% vending facility stands planned for establishment were opened

Ellen Beach Mack Rehabilitation Center

During the 1992-93 fiscal year, the Ellen Beach Mack Rehabilitation Center (EBMRC) in Columbia served 137 clients. This residential facility offers a variety of training programs including adjustment to blindness, vocational evaluation, horti-therapy and business enterprises. The Ellen Beach Mack Rehabilitation Center also provides the evaluation and criteria for entrance into the Radio Broadcast Training Program and the Technical Services Division training.

Adopting a holistic approach to rehabilitation, in FY 1992-93 the Commission continued to expand its recreation services to a full-fledged program within the Center. The Recreation Program is responsible for promoting physical exercise for clients who were sedentary prior to coming to the rehabilitation center.

The EBMRC conducted its 16th Annual High School Summer Program; 29 students participated. This program assists high school sophomores, juniors and seniors in making the transition from school to the world of work. Students attend three consecutive summers with each year building upon skills taught the previous year.

The High School Summer Program has a work experience component that finds part-time summer employment for students who have mastered adjustment to blindness, mobility and independent living skills. During the 1992-93 summer initiative, nine students held jobs in a variety of settings: disc-jockey at WQXL Radio Station, transportation worker with SCCB'S Transportation Division, cafeteria worker with Campus Chefs at SCCB, assistant at Red Cross, B.E.P. vendor assistant at The Rembert C. Dennis Building, receptionist at The Federation Center of the Blind, clerical assistant with SCCB's Enrichment Division, child care assistant at Washington Street United Methodist Church and vendor at the Veterans Administration Building.

The EBMRC also houses the Columbia District Office Low Vision Clinic. This clinic served a total of 91 clients in FY 1992-93. The Agency also has

clinics located in Charleston, Florence, Spartanburg, and Walterboro. These clinics provide clients with diagnostic evaluations of low vision needs and training in the appropriate use of magnifiers, glasses and other aids designed to maximize a client's remaining vision. This fiscal year the clinics served a total 314 legally blind and severely visually impaired individuals. Agency clients are provided these services at no cost; private citizens are no longer being served. The Commission's satellite low vision clinic in Charleston served 40 people, Florence served 36, Spartanburg served 109 and Walterboro served 38.

The Ellen Beach Mack Rehabilitation Center established a Mini Center on the grounds of the South Carolina School for the Deaf and Blind to provide an abbreviated approach to adjustment to blindness services. Individuals attending the Mini Center are clients who chose to enter a day program as opposed to a residential program. This may be due to extenuating circumstances that would prevent them from residing at a domicile facility. Classes are taught in the areas of home and personal management, orientation & mobility, braille and communications. The Mini Center served 32 clients during fiscal year 1992-93.

Business Enterprise Program

As the State Licensing Agency for the Randolph-Sheppard Vending Facility Program, the South Carolina Commission for the Blind operates the Business Enterprise Program (BEP). BEP increases the opportunity for blind individuals to achieve economic independence and productive employment by training them in all aspects of merchandising and customer service and by placing them in a business enterprise of their own.

While offering remunerative employment for South Carolina's legally blind and visually impaired citizens, BEP provides public and private locations with a high quality food service. This service boosts employee morale in municipal, state, federal and private buildings. Our interstate vending operations provide a much needed service to travelers and tourists on South Carolina highways.

This fiscal year witnessed the closing of two interstate rest areas, several textile plant closings and a general slowdown both in the private and public sectors. Despite the economic slowdown, BEP opened five new locations in South Carolina: the Laurel Street Office Building in Columbia, a new facility at Fleet Mortgage Group in Florence, a facility located at the Department of Health and Environmental Control Lab in Columbia, and the Beaufort County Complex. Also, BEP began a new concept this year: a vending route at the SC Retirement System. This was accomplished by

combining three buildings which separately were too small to be profitable, but together under one route they can generate a profit. The vending route allows the blind vendor to serve several buildings using vending machines at each of these locations. We anticipate expanding utilization of this concept in the future.

Vending facilities represent gainful employment and self-sufficiency for blind licensed vendors, and they become taxpayers, not tax consumers. Blind licensed vendors are independent business persons whose employment is accomplished without the creation of new state jobs.

The Business Enterprise Program now has 120 vending operations throughout the state with a total sales volume of \$7,510,984. Blind licensed vendors paid \$300,926 in state sales taxes in FY 1992-93.

One hundred twenty (120) blind licensed vendors, plus 66 assistants, operated the vending stand facilities for a total of 186 jobs generated by BEP. During FY 1992-93 vendors and assistants collectively earned \$3,313,126, which helped boost the state's economy.

The \$993,937 in revenues generated by this payroll has been applied to the tax base of federal, state, county and municipal governments. Additionally, South Carolina blind licensed vendors purchased in excess of \$3,892,128 from wholesalers and suppliers in FY 1992-93. Purchases from suppliers such as Coke, Pepsi, Lance, etc. have a multiplier effect and help create additional jobs. South Carolina realized a total \$7,205,254 economic benefit from the vendors' and assistants' \$3,313,126 payroll, combined with \$3,892,128 in purchases.

Client Transportation Program

The Client Transportation Program is fully operational in all 46 counties of the State. The Transportation Division is responsible for the daily operations of this program. Service to Union County was a combined effort of the City of Union, Union County and the SCCB with the City of Union and Union County paying the labor cost of the vehicle operator. This Division is manned by a manager, a clerical support specialist, three coordinators and 17 vehicle operators.

During fiscal year 1992-93, the Agency's Transportation Division transported 768 clients. Trips for employment totalled 5,317, trips for training for potential employment totalled 3,270 and trips for medical and other related services totalled 2,138. The vehicles traveled 425,584 miles. Transportation services covered medical appointments, Agency sponsored

job interviews, office visits, outreach training programs, employment and various functions sponsored or co-sponsored by the Agency.

Disability Determination

The Disability Determination Unit received 590 claims in fiscal year 1992-93. Determinations were made on 620. The Federal Review component reported an annual accuracy rate of 98 percent for the unit. The Unit makes a determination of disability in which blindness is the primary disabling factor.

All claims were evaluated for referral to the Commission's Vocational Rehabilitation Division, Children's Services or Prevention of Blindness Program for possible services. There were 293 referrals. The Unit began VR referral monitoring in March 1992 in an effort to determine the effectiveness of the process. Counselors have 30 days to contact the claimant and to begin the process of determining eligibility for VR services.

COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION

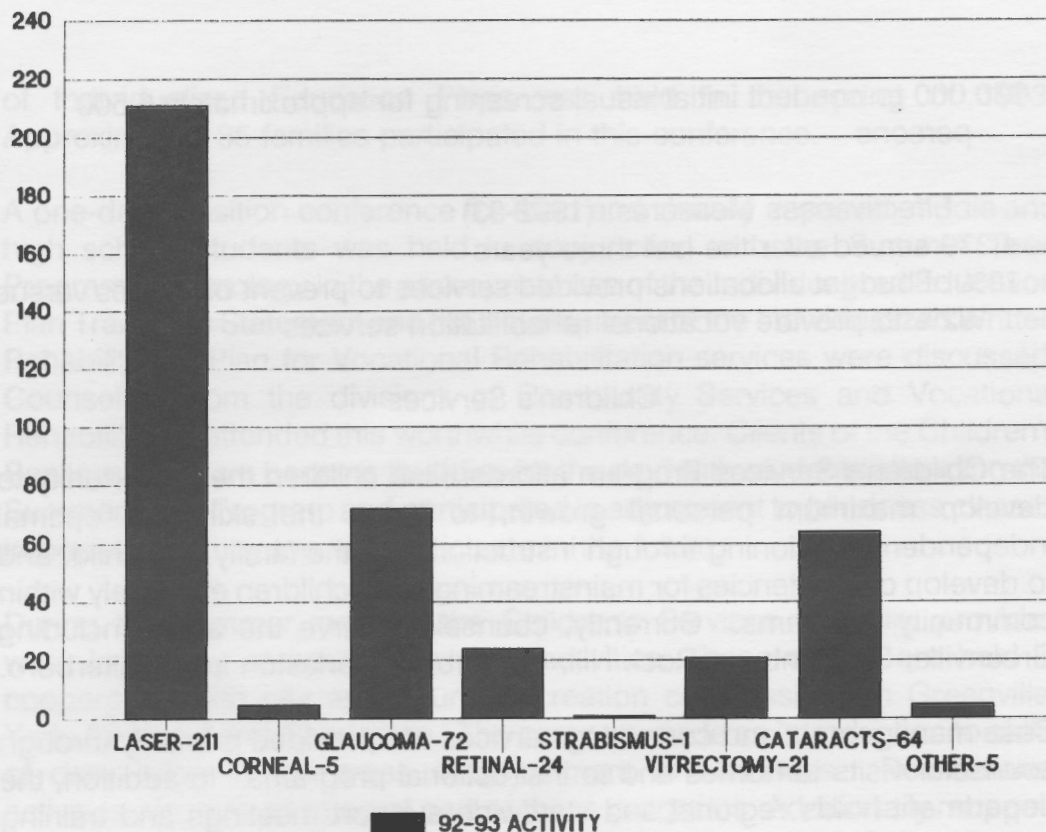
The Community Services Division provides services that maximize the emotional, social, educational and functional independence of blind adults and children within the state of South Carolina. Services are provided in the areas of Prevention of Blindness, Children's Services, Independent Living and Mobile Outreach.

Prevention of Blindness

During FY 1992-93, the Prevention of Blindness Department made 6,500 client contacts. Of that number 1,079 received services that aided in the restoration of their sight or prevented them from losing additional sight. The Department provides eye-related medical services to persons who otherwise could not afford the prescribed treatments.

Individuals in this program are provided with eye examinations and follow-up visits for ocular conditions that could lead to blindness without prompt treatment. The Department sponsored 202 eye examinations and 559 follow-up examinations. Approximately 93 pairs of glasses and specialized contact lenses were provided for persons who would otherwise be blind.

Ocular surgeries and treatments sponsored to prevent blindness during this fiscal year include: laser procedures, cataracts, glaucoma procedures, retinal detachments, strabismus, vitrectomy, corneal transplants, etc. The Prevention Program provided a total of 403 surgeries and treatments.



Preventing unnecessary loss of sight due to diabetes-related complications became the goal of OPERATION SIGHTSAVER. Utilizing our toll-free number, approximately 711 individuals called for information concerning an initial eye examination. Participating ophthalmologists and optometrists across the state played a vital part in making this program a success. This campaign was initiated by a multidisciplinary task force consisting of: the South Carolina Commission for the Blind, the South Carolina Society of Ophthalmology, the South Carolina Optometric Association, the South Carolina Medical Association, Benedict College, Clemson University, the University of South Carolina, the Greenville Urban League and the South Carolina Affiliate of the American Diabetes Association. Initiatives are now under way to address vision loss due to glaucoma.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES:

Workload Indicators: (1992-93)

- 1,079 persons served under Prevention of Blindness
- 6,500 persons screened

Efficiency Measures: (1992-93)

- \$794 per person

- \$30,000 to conduct initial visual screening for approximately 6,500 persons

Effectiveness Measures: (1992-93)

- 4,379 served over the last three years
- 18% of budget allocations provided services to prevent blindness versus 82% to provide vocational rehabilitation services

Children's Services

The Children's Services Program affords blind children the opportunity to develop maximum personal growth, to teach the skills for optimal independent functioning through instruction with the family and child, and to develop competencies for mainstreaming blind children effectively within community programs. Currently, counselors serve the areas including Greenville, Spartanburg, Rock Hill, Columbia, Charleston and Walterboro.

Case management and consulting services are provided primarily through counselor visits to homes and to instructional programs. In addition, the department holds regional and statewide support meetings and training workshops for parents and other professionals and instructional programs for children. The program staff also publishes the parent newsletter "Keeping In Touch," and works cooperatively with community groups to provide enriching opportunities for young clients.

During fiscal year 1992-93, more than 525 children were served as active clients. The program received 123 clients and referred 29, 16-year-old clients to the SCCB Vocational Rehabilitation Program.

At the beginning of this year, Commissioner Gist organized the first Parent Task Force of the S. C. Commission for the Blind. The task force, representative of SC Congressional Districts, meets quarterly to recommend programs that will improve State services to children who are blind and visually impaired. Regional meetings in Greenville and Columbia educated parents about Children's Services.

Children's Services sponsored several statewide events at the Ellen Beach Mack Rehabilitation Center during FY 1992-93. A textured quilt workshop was provided by the Fort Jackson Desert Storm Wives Support Group. They provided techniques for making quilts of various fabrics and textures for use by blind and visually impaired children.

A two-day conference for families of school-age blind and visually impaired children focusing on advocacy, appropriate assessments and development

of Individualized Education Plans was held in the spring of 1993. Approximately 35 families participated in this conference.

A one-day transition conference for blind and visually impaired middle and high school students was held in conjunction with the Summer Teen Program. Technology in the appropriate use of the Individualized Education Plan Transition Statement and the development of the Individualized Written Rehabilitation Plan for Vocational Rehabilitation services were discussed. Counselors from the divisions of Community Services and Vocational Rehabilitation attended this worthwhile conference. Clients of the Children's Services Program became "buddies for the day" with students attending the Summer Teen Program and participated in adjustment to blindness classes in hopes that they too will participate in the future.

During the summer months, the Children's Services Program provides week-long "day camps" in life skills activities. These camps are held in cooperation with city and county recreation commissions in Greenville, York, Richland and Charleston. The camps provide an introduction to skills of daily living in the areas of adjustment to blindness. Recreational activities also are an integral part of these programs. Additionally, support and information groups for parents were held in Greenville, Columbia and Charleston.

The Department also was involved in the coordination of the third annual "touch tour" circus sponsored by the Ringling Brothers/Barnum and Bailey Circus, WLTX-TV, and the Palmetto Chapter of the SC Telephone Pioneers.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES:

Workload Indicators: (1992-93)

- 525 children served, birth to approximately 16 years of age.
- 123 new referrals

Efficiency Measures: (1992-93)

- \$471 per child served

Effectiveness Measures: (1992-93)

- Early intervention of adjustment to blindness issues greatly impacts on the successful vocational rehabilitation of blind and visually impaired children. If appropriate services are developed and provided to family members and children in the formative years, the chances of acquiring age appropriate skills of daily living will increase, thus decreasing the long-term costs of extensive vocational rehabilitation services.

Independent Living and Mobile Outreach

The Independent Living-State (IDL) Program serves elderly blind (defined as 55 years and older) South Carolinians and operates in conjunction with the Prevention of Blindness Department. The IDL program assisted 255 individuals in FY 1992-93.

This program refers elderly blind individuals to available services in their communities. It provides valuable information on eye diseases, visual impairment as it relates to the aging process and other areas of concern to the individual and his or her family. Independent living services are determined by individual need. Services include simple adaptations made in participants' homes and instruction in skills of daily living. Individuals also participate in training offered by our Mobile Outreach programs.

The Independent Living-State Program, selected nationally as one of five states by the American Foundation for the Blind, was a project site for an Eldercare grant through the Administration on Aging. A 15-member Eldercare Coalition was formed consisting of elderly blind consumers, caregivers, SC Aging Network personnel and civic organizations members. The Coalition identified issues relative to the elderly blind of South Carolina. The project will culminate in the fall of 1993 with a public service initiative, a one-day conference and materials to be included in a brochure that could be disseminated nationwide.

Two Senior Camps were co-sponsored with the National Federation of the Blind of South Carolina at Rocky Bottom Camp of the Blind in the mountains of Pickens County. The camps, held in September and April, provide a week of learning, recreation and fellowship for approximately 25 blind senior citizens.

Our Mobile Outreach Program offers community-based services in the area of independent living. Instruction in the skills of daily living, adjustment to blindness and orientation and mobility are provided. Units located in Columbia, Charleston and Greenville evaluated or provided outreach services to 139 blind and severely visually impaired individuals in FY 1992-93. This program serves individuals in our Vocational Rehabilitation and Independent Living programs. It affords the older blind population the opportunity to remain independent within their home environment, thus removing the fear of becoming dependent on others. These community-based programs support the adjustment to blindness skills for those persons unable to attend training at the Ellen Beach Mack Rehabilitation Center in Columbia.

Central locations are selected within communities where the need exists. Outreach staff has an excellent relationship with churches across South Carolina that allow us to use their facilities for training. Programs have been held in Walterboro, Greenwood, Florence, Conway and Charleston. Clients from surrounding counties are transported to these central locations via the Agency's transportation system.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES:

Workload Indicators: (1992-93)

- 255 individuals served

Efficiency Measures: (1992-93)

- \$150.00 per client for services directly related to maintaining independent living skills
- \$230.00 per individual for in-home or community based training in adjustment to blindness

Effectiveness Measures: (1992-93)

- 1,877 persons served over the last 3 years
- Annual cost of nursing or residential care as based on Medicaid rates (\$54.00 per day).

S.C. COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND

FISCAL YEAR 1992-93

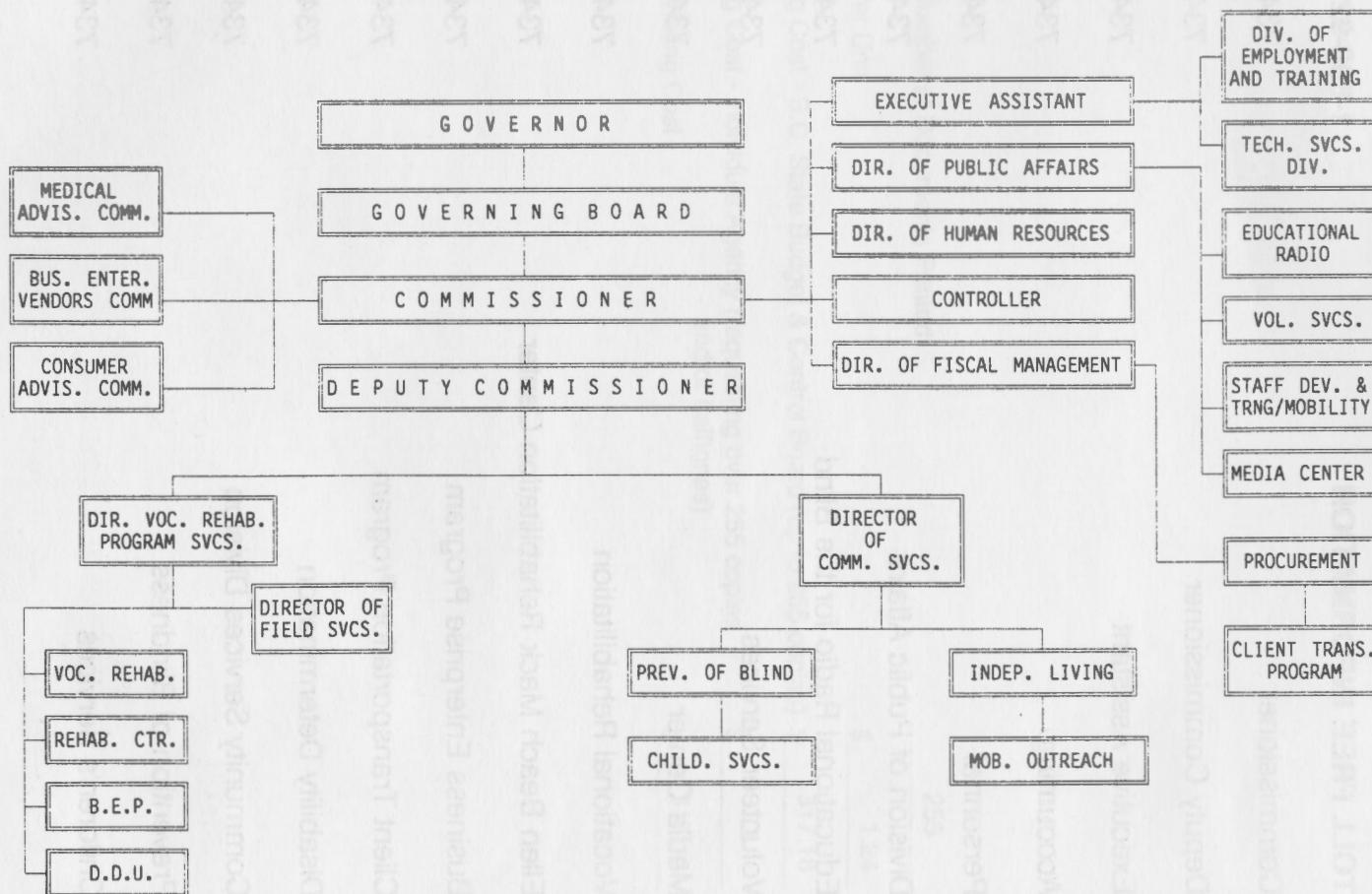
SOURCES OF FUNDS

1. Federal Government	4,539,343
2. State Government	3,096,837
3. Earmarked Revenue	420,925
<i>Total - All Funds</i>	8,057,105

EXPENDITURES

1. Administration	1,203,657
2. Prevention of Blindness	774,437
3. Rehabilitation Services	4,828,546
4. Community Services	278,939
5. Employer Contributions	889,291
6. Capital Projects	82,235
<i>Total Expenditures</i>	8,057,105

SC COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



ASSISTANCE DIRECTORY

TOLL FREE INFORMATION

1-800-922-2222

Commissioner	734-7522
Deputy Commissioner	734-7542
Executive Assistant	734-7543
Accounting	734-7533
Personnel	734-7930
Division of Public Affairs	734-7548
Educational Radio for the Blind	734-7555
Volunteer Services	734-7557
Media Center	734-7577
Vocational Rehabilitation	734-7526
Ellen Beach Mack Rehabilitation Center	734-7590
Business Enterprise Program	734-7540
Client Transportation Program	734-7561
Disability Determination	734-7551
Community Services Division	734-7581
Prevention of Blindness	734-7581
Children's Services	734-7553

Total Number of Documents Printed	<u>255</u>
Cost Per Unit	\$ <u>1.24</u>
Printing Cost - S.C. State Budget & Control Board (up to 255 copies)	\$ <u>317.18</u>
Printing Cost - Individual Agency (requesting over 255 copies and/or halftones)	\$ <u>—</u>
Total Printing Cost	\$ <u>317.18</u>

